



Rally4Recovery

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Rhode Islanders Come Together to Celebrate People in Recovery at Ninth Annual Rally

A. Kathryn Power, Director of the National Center for Mental Health Services in Washington DC and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse were Among Guest Speakers at the Event

Cranston, RI, September, 2011 – The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) and the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition hosted the ninth annual Rally for Recovery on Saturday, September 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Roger Williams National Memorial, 282 North Main Street in Providence.

Speakers at the event, which is held to raise awareness about drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness, developmental disabilities and the journey to recovery included A. Kathryn Power, Director of the National Center for Mental Health Services (and former Director of the Rhode Island department known as MHRH) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. As the event concluded, a group of torchbearers including Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed, led a procession of people carrying written dedications and luminarias to Waterfire National Park in memory of friends and family who have passed.

“Symbolically, this event was an important one for all of us, said Craig Stenning, Director of BHDDH and emcee for the event. “With Rhode Islanders recently recovering from hurricane Irene, we’ve been reminded of how fragile life can be. From behavioral health and medical health perspectives, we now know that realizing things can get better, that we can recover, and that we can have hope can make all the difference.”

This event was part of National Recovery Month, a national initiative sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).

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Recovery Month spreads the message that behavioral health is an important part of health and one's overall wellness, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from substance use and mental disorders. For more information, visit www.rally4recovery.com.

About the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

BHDDH is committed to assuring access to quality services and supports for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues and chronic, long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. In addition to planning for the development of new services and prevention activities, the mission of the department includes addressing the stigma attached to these disabilities.

About the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition

The Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition includes treatment and recovery service providers, family members, and friends and advocates for recovery. The coalition strives to improve the quality of life of veterans and other individuals in recovery and highlight their accomplishments.

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